



**APPROVED Minutes of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B**

**February 13, 2023**

**Held In Person at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and Over Zoom**

**Commissioner Edward Stillwell Ryder, Chair**

**Participating: Commissioners D'Andrea, Durkit, Jayaraman, LaFortune, Mareino, Ryder, Sobelsohn, and Sroufe**

**Absent: Commissioner Avery**

Commissioner Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to approve the agenda as presented. At the request of the following Commission-ers, and without objection, the agenda was modified as follows:

a. Commissioners Durkit and Sobelsohn: remove bylaws amendment, with the understanding that the ANC will consider it at its March 12 meeting.

b. Commissioner Mareino: move, from "ANC 6B Administrative Matters" to the Consent Agenda, both "a) Election of ANC 6B Representative to the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee" and "b) Appointment of ANC 6B Resident Members and Alternates."

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to approve the agenda as modified. The motion passed 8-0.

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to approve matters on the Consent Agenda as modified. The motion passed 8-0. The Consent Agenda included:

a. Administrative matters.

1) Minutes of January 9, 2024 meeting as presented. The approved January minutes are linked to these minutes.

2) Election of Commissioner Sroufe as ANC 6B representative to the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee.

3) Appointment of Resident Members and Alternates to ANC 6B committees and taskforces. A list of those appointed at this meeting as Resident Members and Alternates to ANC 6B committees and taskforces is linked to these minutes.

b. Financial matters.

1) Fiscal Year 2024 First-Quarter Financial Report. The Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter Financial Report is linked to these minutes.

2) 2024 Renewal of Debit-Card Vendor Authorizations. The list of vendors approved for ANC 6B payment by debit card is linked to these minutes.

c. Recommendations of ANC 6B standing committees.

1) Planning and Zoning Committee: To support Martin Sullivan's applica-tion, on behalf of owners William and Valerie Reynolds, to build a two-story addition to an existing

accessory building of an existing, semi-detached, two-story, principal dwelling unit at 1362 K St., SE (BZA 21074).

## 2) Transportation Committee.

a) Endorse Sidewalk Safety Report and submit related testimony to the DC Council, and delegating authority to committee chair Commissioner LaFortune to draft the ANC's testimony, to (1) reduce the Service Level Agreement to re-quire repairs to within 30 business days; (2) provide adequate funding for that reduction; (3) establish an annual sidewalk-monitoring program; (4) capture data about sidewalk injuries via 311; (5) make it easier for residents to get reim-bursement for the cost of injuries from sidewalk falls; and (6) study methods to reduce the number of and costs to repair sidewalk problems. The final submitted testimony is linked to these minutes.

b) Support the Capitol Hill Classic 2024 by letter to the Mayor's Spe-cial Events Task Group. A copy of that letter is linked to these minutes.

c) Authorize Commissioner LaFortune to draft and submit testimony, on the ANC's behalf and by the February 16 deadline, to the DC Council for its Feb-ruary 9 Department of Transportation (DDOT) oversight hearing, the testimony to include recommendations on Traffic Safety Input (TSI) prioritization, traffic corridors, sidewalk safety, speed-bump bicycle grooves, and dockless bikes. The final submitted testimony is linked to these minutes.

d) Authorize Commissioner LaFortune to draft and send a letter to DDOT, on the ANC's behalf, urging safety improvements at the intersection of 14th and C Streets, SE, following up on a pending TSI submission. A copy of that letter is linked to these minutes.

e) Authorize Commissioner LaFortune to draft and send a letter to DDOT, on the ANC's behalf, urging the reinstallation of safety improvements on I St., SE, at the I-695 offramp. A copy of that letter is linked to these minutes.

3. Presentation from EmpowerEd Executive Director Scott Goldstein. Founded six years ago, EmpowerEd partners with 20 DC schools to help retain teachers. The American urban turnover average is 16% per year. In recent years, DC public schools have placed close to last among American urban public schools, averaging up to 30% annually. Turnover exceeds even that in DC charter schools. With Em-powerEd's help, its 20 partner schools have cut that to 22%. From 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. March 16, EmpowerEd will hold a Teacher Solutions Summit on the 8th floor of the Open Gov Hub, 1100 13th St., NW. To register and for more information, go to <https://www.dcareeducators4socialjustice.org/events/2024-teacher-solu-tions-summit>.

## 4. Announcements.

a. Walks. Commissioner D'Andrea announced two upcoming safety walks in ANC 6B. The first will cover 11th St., starting at 11th and D Streets, SE, at 5:30 p.m. February 15. The second will walk east along South Carolina Ave., SE, from 9th St., SE. starting at 5:30 p.m. February 29.

## b. Mayor's Office.

1) Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS). MOCRS's Jake Stolz-enberg made three announcements.

a) Safe Commercial Corridor Hub office. DC's first Safe Commercial Cor-ridor Hub has opened in Chinatown at 675 H St., NW. Staff will include represen-tatives of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), MOCRS, the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture, the Mayor's Office of Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Behavioral Health. The office will provide walk-in services Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

b) Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence. The mayor is organizing an advisory group on Artificial Intelligence, designed to make DC government websites easier to use.

c) MOCRS Walks. MOCRS plans Ward Six walks monthly. Contact [jake.stolzenberg@dc.gov](mailto:jake.stolzenberg@dc.gov) to arrange one.

2) ANC 6B Administrative Assistant Tori Collins announced that the mayor encourages participation in the 6th annual #FITDC HerStory 5K run/walk, starting Saturday March 9, 10 a.m. from Freedom Plaza, 1455 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.

c. Office of Ward Six Councilmember Charles Allen. A representative of Councilmember Charles Allen made several announcements.

1) Council legislation.

a) The Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024. Councilmember Allen expects this bill to pass March 5.

b) The Strengthening Traffic Enforcement, Education, and Responsibility (STEER) Act of 2024. The STEER Act, with Councilmember Allen as its principal sponsor, passed the Council unanimously February 7. The Act cracks down on speeding and reckless driving in DC, especially by outsiders to DC.

2) Taxes. Councilmember Allen encourages low-income DC workers to file DC tax returns in order to claim the DC Earned Income Tax Credit, only available to those who file tax returns. For more information go to [EITC.dc.gov](http://EITC.dc.gov) or call (202) 759-1931.

3) Safety Walk. With 1st District MPD officers, Councilmember Allen expects to lead a safety walk of ANC 6B08 March 4, starting 5:30 p.m. from the pocket park at 13th St., I St., and Potomac Ave., SE.

5. Committee and Taskforce Reports.

a. Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee. Committee chair Commissioner Jayaraman reported that the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABRA) will hold a mediation Friday, February 16, on the medical-cannabis license application of No Kids Allowed, 637 Pennsylvania Ave., SE. Commissioner Jayaraman expects his committee in March to vote on the applications of No Kids Allowed and two other medicinal-cannabis applicants, both on 8th St., SE. ABRA and the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board are considering applications on a first-filed, first-considered basis. Because DC law limits licenses to applicants at least 400 feet from another licensee, ABRA and the Board will deny licenses to cannabis retailers already in business but within 400 feet of another retailer who has previously submitted a license application.

b. Transportation Committee. Committee chair Commissioner LaFortune reported on the committee's recommendations regarding pedestrian-safety measures during the closing, for renovations, of the Southeast Library, 403 7th St., SE. Consistent with those recommendations, Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded for the ANC to urge DDOT to (1) create a protected pedestrian walkway on the north (westbound) side of the 600 block of South Carolina Ave., SE, between 6th and 7th Streets, SE, connecting to the 7th St. crosswalk to the Eastern Market Metrorail Plaza, and from there to the Plaza sidewalk on D St., SE, even if creating a pedestrian walkway means eliminating, for the duration, the current westbound bicycle lane on that block of South Carolina Ave., SE; (2) for further protection of pedestrians on South Carolina Ave., SE, (a) install speedbumps on South Carolina Ave., SE, between 6th and 7th Streets, (b) relocate the ramp currently just west of 648 South Carolina Ave., SE, connecting South Carolina Avenue's north-side sidewalk with the street, so that it lines up with the new South Carolina Ave. protected pedestrian walkway, (c) prohibit parking that blocks access to that ramp, to wherever DDOT relocates it; (3) provide ANC 6B with an analysis of the best way, for the duration of Southeast Library renovations, to protect pedestrians on 7th St., SE, between D St. and South Carolina Ave., SE, including an analysis of the relative risks and

benefits of leaving that block completely open to motorized vehicles, closing it entirely to motor-ized vehicles, or making it one-way for motorized vehicles; (4) work with the DC Public Library and Whiting-Turner Contracting, for the duration of Southeast Li-brary renovations, to remove or make transparent, to the extent compatible with construction-worker, pedestrian, and motorist safety, any screens around the construction site that currently limit motorist and pedestrian visibility; and (5) paint a crosswalk across D St., SE, between the north side of the street be-tween 638 D St., SE and the rear (south) wall of 645 Pennsylvania Ave., SE (cur-rently the south wall of the Labyrinth store), & the south side of the street, between 639 & 643 D St., SE. The motion passed 8-0. The ANC's DDOT correspon-dence is linked to these minutes.

c. Planning & Zoning. Committee chair Commissioner D'Andrea reported that the committee's Subcommittee on Alley and Street Closings has reached an agreement in principle with Clear Plains, LLC, regarding community benefits for the clos-ing of a 10-foot-wide alley in Square 762, south of Pennsylvania Ave., SE, be-tween 2nd and 3rd Streets, SE. The subcommittee hopes to reach a final agreement in March.

d. Southeast Library Task Force. Taskforce chair Commissioner Sobelsohn re-ported the opening, Mondays-Fridays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except Thursdays from 12 noon-8 p.m., of the interim library service at the Arthur Capper Community Cen-ter, 1000 5th St., SE, for the years the Southeast Library will stay closed for renovations. The taskforce also worked with the Transportation Committee on the pedestrian-safety measures detailed in the Transportation Committee's report outlined elsewhere in these minutes.

e. Public Parks & Recreation Spaces Task Force. Taskforce chair Commissioner Sroufe reported on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed by various DC agen-cies, regarding responsibility for the Eastern Market MetroPark. The taskforce has drafted a letter to Ward Six Councilmember Allen urging rethinking the MOA to include matters omitted from the MOA, such as reconvening a MetroPark adviso-ry committee. Commissioner Sroufe moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to send that letter to Councilmember Allen. Commissioner Sroufe moved/Commissioner So-belsohn seconded to amend the motion by adding strong language to the letter urging the providing of public restrooms in the area of the MetroPark near the Metrorail station. The motion to amend passed 8-0. The underlying motion, as amended, passed 8-0. The letter, as sent, is linked to these minutes.

f. Public-Safety Committee. Commissioner Ryder reported that the Committee on Public Safety had an informal gathering January 25, will hold its next meet-ing at 6:30 p.m. Monday February 26, and will usually meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of each month.

g. Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee (EMCAC). Commissioner Sroufe, ANC delegate to EMCAC, reported that EMCAC expects soon to present a plan for Eastern Market public safety.

6. Financial Report. The ANC opened January 2024 with a bank balance of \$61,894.64 and closed the month with a balance of \$61,690.34, indicating a net monthly decrease of \$204.30, reflecting bank interest and payments for Amazon Web Services; for renting the ground-floor classroom at 700 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, for a committee meeting; and for enrollment in the ANC Security Fund. A treasurer's report is linked to these minutes.

7. Administrative Matters.

a. Renewal of taskforces. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Mareino seconded to amend the agenda to add, under Administrative Matters, renewal of the taskforces on the Southeast Library and on Public Parks and Recreation Spac-es. The motion to amend the agenda passed 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote.

Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to renew, for 2024, the taskforces on the Southeast Library and on Public Parks and Recreation Spaces. The motion passed 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote.

b. Election of committee & taskforce officers.

1) Standing committees.

a) Planning and Zoning. Commissioner Sobelsohn nominated/Commissioner LaFortune seconded to reelect Commissioner D'Andrea to chair the Planning and Zoning Committee in 2024. Commissioner D'Andrea was reelected 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote.

b) Transportation. Commissioner Sobelsohn nominated/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to reelect Commissioner LaFortune to chair the Transportation Committee in 2024. Commissioner LaFortune was reelected 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote.

c) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis. Commissioner Mareino moved/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to table, until the March ANC meeting, electing the chair of the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee, and to delegate to the committee the choice of a chair *pro tempore* until the ANC's March meeting. The motion passed without objection.

d) Public Safety. Commissioner Mareino nominated/Commissioner Ryder seconded to elect Lisa Matsumoto to chair the newly established standing Committee on Public Safety. Lisa Matsumoto was elected 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote. Commissioner Ryder nominated/Commissioner Sobelsohn seconded to elect

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Commissioner Avery as vice-chair of the Committee on Public Safety. Commissioner Avery was elected 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote.

2) Taskforces. Commissioner Sobelsohn nominated/Commissioner D'Andrea seconded to reelect Commissioner Sobelsohn to chair the Southeast Library Task Force and to reelect Commissioner Sroufe to chair the Public Parks and Recreation Spaces Task Force. Commissioners Sobelsohn and Sroufe were reelected 7-0. Commissioner Jayaraman did not vote.

c. Upcoming meeting dates. Commissioner Ryder announced the following upcoming meeting dates.

1) Southeast Library Task Force: 7 p.m. Monday February 19.

2) Public Safety Committee: 6:30 p.m. Monday February 26.

3) Executive Committee: 7 p.m. Tuesday February 27.

4) Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Committee: 7 p.m. Tuesday March 5.

5) Transportation Committee: 7 p.m. Wednesday March 6.

6) Planning and Zoning Committee: 7 p.m. Thursday March 7.

7) ANC 6B: 7 p.m. Tuesday March 12.

8. Adjournment. Commissioner Sobelsohn moved/Commissioner Sroufe seconded to adjourn. The motion passed without objection. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner David Sobelsohn

ANC 6B Secretary